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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/749,893	12/29/2000	Robert Palifka	09991-014001	6685
26171 7590 08/02/2007 FISH & RICHARDSON P.C. P.O. BOX 1022 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55440-1022			EXAMINER NGHIEM, MICHAEL P	
			ART UNIT 2863	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 08/02/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Continuation of Disposition of Claims: Claims pending in the application are 29-33,35,36,38,39,41-45,48,50-52,54-58,60,61,63-76,78,80-99,102,104 and 105.

DETAILED ACTION

The Amendment filed on May 21, 2007 has been acknowledged.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claims 29-33, 35, 36, 38, 39, 41-45, 48, 50-52, 54-58, 60, 61, 63-76, 78-99, 102, 104, and 105 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Claims 29, 44, 45, 52, 102, and 104, it is unclear how the thermoplastic bonding component being bonded to the surface of piezoelectric element can also include a filter and function as one. Fig. 3 shows the thermoplastic bonding component (90) to be bonded to a surface of a piezoelectric element (34, 34'). However, since the thermoplastic bonding component is bonded to the surface, it is not possible for it to function as a filter since the bonded surface of piezoelectric element would prevent the flow of fluid to flow to the other side (bonded side) of the thermoplastic filter (Fig. 3).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on May 21, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With respect to the 35 USC 112, first paragraph rejection, Applicants argue that the piezoelectric element (34) is smaller and only contacts a portion of the component (30), thus, leaving an area non-bonded to the piezoelectric element (34). This non-bonded area can function as a filter. The fluid can freely flow through the body (20) and through the filter in the non-bonded area of component (30).

Examiner's position is that fluid does not freely flow through the body (20) and through the filter in the non-bonded area of the component (30). The component (30) is not placed in the direction of fluid flow to filter fluid (see Figs. 1's). The instant application describes fluid communication between the ink passage (26) and ink channels (22) (Figs. 1B, 2; page 4, lines 20-23). Figs. 1B, 2 show that the fluid communication is in a direction that is not through the filter of component (30). Moynihan et al. (US 6,755,511) shows a piezoelectric ink jet head of the instant application (see Fig. 1). Moynihan et al. further shows how the piezoelectric element (34), component (30) and body (20) are connected to each other (see Fig. 2). Fig. 2 of Moynihan et al. shows that fluid flows in a direction between passage (26) and ink channels (22) that is not through the filter of component (30). Thus, the component (30) cannot function as a filter.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Nghiem whose telephone number is (571) 272-2277. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Barlow can be reached on (571) 272-2269. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Art Unit: 2863

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



MICHAEL NGHIEM
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Michael Nghiem

July 23, 2007